

Editorial Note:

The following documents drawn from the reign of King Tharrawaddy are intended as one contribution of many forthcoming to the project of organizing and publishing the source accounts for one of the Kon-baung dynasty's most obscure, yet critical reigns. Thus, documents included have not been selected on the basis of their high rate of interest relative to other documents of the period, but rather more with the view of making the documentary record complete.

M. W. C.

Some Documents of Tharrawaddy's Reign: 1837-1846, Part I

"Letter of Mr. Simons, Dated Rangoon, June 20, 1838: Relations Between Burmah and British India—The "heir apparent" and others put to death"

By

Mr. Simons

American Baptist Missionary Magazine 29.2 (February 1839)

The king of Burmah has latterly, through his ministers, tacitly signified his royal pleasure that the same friendly understanding, which existed in his brother's reign between the two countries, should be continued. At the same time it is difficult to say what are the real intentions of his Burman majesty. The governor of Rangoon, who has charge of the lower country from Prome, and is also empowered to settle any difficulties that may arise with the English, has more than once intimated to Mr. Bayfield, the acting resident to court just yet; that the king might consider it an insult offered to him, and, getting angry, serious difficulties might arise between the two governments. He therefore recommends that the resident, who may be appointed by the governor-general, should remain at Rangoon; and he has no doubt that, in two or three years, when the palace is finished, the king will receive him in a suitable manner at court. Should the governor-general in council be as ready to meet the wishes of this officer, and, of course, of his royal master, as the acting resident appears to be, we may consider the difficulty between the two governments, respecting the treaty, as settled for the present.

About two days ago, official information was received by the governor, from the court of Amarapura, of the execution of the heir apparent and his wife, and nurse, and others—in all eight persons. The alleged crime was a supposed connivance at a counter-resolution in his favour, for which (so the report is,) his friends were preparing. A great many Burmans do not believe this report, but think that the heir apparent has run away into the Shyan country.

One of the Shyan saubwas has been executed. An officer's wife has been put to death for having in her possession a valuable jewel, which belonged to the royal family.

At the time the heir apparent was executed, report says, that many who were supposed to be of his party, and had money, were also executed. Notwithstanding the king's severity to his own subjects, who have been so unfortunate as to incur his displeasure, the foreigners, who have visited him, speak well of his treatment towards them.

Some time in the present month the king's eldest son is to be married to one of prince Mekara's daughters, and it is supposed that this son will become heir apparent to the throne, as he is the son of the king's head wife, or the present queen. How such a measure will meet the wishes of the prince of Prome and the prince of Paghan, sons of the king by one of his inferior wives, it is difficult to say. These young men are ambitious, took an active part in the revolution, and, in conjunction with prince Mekara, are at the head of the government; and one of them, prince of Paghan, is commander in chief of the army.

Materials for building a new palace at Amarapura, are being collected. From this place a large quantity of buffalo hides are being sent. These are to be made into ropes, and some will be used to make size to mix with mortar. About 200,000 baskets of paddy also have been ordered to be sent up to replenish the royal granaries.

The report mentioned in my last, of the death of Meawade, the ex-woon-gyee, appears not to be true. He was dangerously ill, and recovered. On account of his talents as a poet and musician, he is not confined with the other state prisoners, but is allowed to live in a small hut by himself, in the prison compound, and is employed to teach the young people music and singing. Not a word is heard of the ex-king, and it is not known whether he is dead or alive.

For some cause, I have not heard from the church in Ava since the 8th of March. This may be owing to the consternation among the people, caused by the unexpected execution of the heir apparent and others. At such times of bloodshed every man is afraid of his neighbour, and he who remains quiet is at the farthest remove from suspicion. The officer who had charge of Ava when the king removed from Sagaing to Kyouk-Myoung, a person who was supposed to be in high favour, has been reduced to a common man.

In my journal for last year I had occasion to mention the name of Luyi, a young man whom br. I. baptized. He was in my employ for some time as a writer, and I hoped he would prove himself undeserving the suspicions I had respecting him; but time has brought his real character to light. There are strong reasons to believe that he deceived himself and the teachers who were here, when he was received for baptism. The last I heard of him, he had become an alchemist, and was in search of a nostrum which was to turn lead into silver.

[Letter of Mr. Simons, 23 June 1838]

By

Mr. Simons

American Baptist Missionary Magazine 29.2 (February 1839)

Since writing the above, on the afternoon of the 21st, a vessel from Calcutta brought the intelligence that Col. Benson had been appointed resident at the court of Amarapura, and would soon be at Rangoon. Capt. McLeod, of Mergui, has been appointed also assistant to the resident, and Mr. Bayfield is to remain at Rangoon, to be under the direction of the resident. It is said the governor of Rangoon seems sadly disappointed by the appointment of a resident so soon. A despatch boat was sent up to Amarapura this morning, to communicate to the king this intelligence, and in twenty days it is supposed the boat will return with his majesty's answer.

[Events at Amarapura, December 1837]

Maulmain Chronicle, 9 December 1837

Various reports have reached us by the late arrivals from Rangoon, among others, that the half-brother of the late and present king, the Bo-thmoo Men-tha, has effected his escape from the Capital. If this be true, he will of course direct his flight to the Shan states of which he was formerly the Governor-General, and by whom he is, from all accounts, much beloved. He is said to be a man of far more energy and strength of mind than either of his half-brothers, and if he has escaped out of the present king's hands, the latter is likely to find in him a very troublesome disturber of his quiet, and one whom it will not be easy to put down.

We have seen a copy of an order, or proclamation, or whatever else it may be called, addressed by His Majesty to all his loving subjects, in which he informs them that while his elder brother was on the throne, the Government was bad and the people oppressed and unhappy, but that he intends to restore justice and happiness—that for this purpose he did intend establishing himself at the birth-place of his great ancestor, but that it having been represented to him that Amarapura was the residence of his father—that it is a holy and fortunate city, and that all the omens and conjurations and divinations point to that city as the most eligible site for his throne and palace, he has determined upon re-establishing it as the Capital—that he has given orders for building a palace there, and that it is not his intention to call upon the people to contribute towards the expense which will be defrayed from the Royal Treasure. The last assurance, if abided by, which we much doubt, will be highly popular.

Reports are prevalent at Rangoon of Mr. Sarkies having obtained from the king a monopoly of Timber; and it has naturally created considerable dissatisfaction. The report, however, requires confirmation.

[Letter from Maulmain, 6 April 1839]

By

Eugenio Kincaid

American Baptist Missionary Magazine 20.1. (January 1840)

As you will feel anxious to learn every particular bearing on the prospect of the re-establishment of the mission in Burmah, I embrace the first opportunity of giving you the outlines of what has transpired since my last date.

Col. Benson reached Maulmain, the last of March, and after remaining here four days, left for Calcutta in a steam ship. After remaining five months in Amarapura, and making every effort that one of the most experienced Indian statesmen could, to restore harmony between the two Governments, he was obliged to leave, without even being recognized as an English envoy. During his whole stay, he was not only entirely neglected, but repeatedly treated with positive insult. I had an interview with him, the day before he left for Calcutta, and learned, what was anticipated by all who have any knowledge of the king and court, that it was hazardous, if not impossible, to get back to Rangoon. Repeated consultations have been held in the palace, on the expediency of destroying the resident, and all of his party; but some of the more considerate of the king's ministers thought it impolitic, and contrary to the established maxims of nations, and mentioned two instances in which they had cut off Chinese embassies, which, in the end, brought a great deal of misery on the country. Col. Benson became quite ill, which furnished a reasonable excuse for quitting the capital; but to bring away the whole party, was too hazardous to be attempted, even by veteran soldiers. Capt. McLeod, assistant to Col. Benson, is left in charge of the mission. He, too, will come away, as soon as he can frame an excuse sufficiently plausible to be admitted by the king and the court. In this covert manner, all the members of the mission must be withdrawn, or fall by murderous hands. This is a most painful embarrassment, but the English government has imposed it upon itself, by a most extraordinary course of forbearance. Barbarous or half-civilized powers, are certain to construe forbearance into fear, and a spirit of conciliation into a tacit acknowledgement of weakness. Col. Benson thinks the king is inclined to be on friendly terms with the English, but he is under the influence of two headstrong sons, and a large number of robber chieftains, to whom he owes his elevation to the throne. Active preparations for war are still going forward, in all parts of Burmah. Such is the present state of affairs.

War, however, is by no means certain. Some revolution may take place in Burmah, that will result in restoring former friendly relations.

As things now are, it is impossible to attempt missionary labor in Burmah, with the least prospect of success. I have confidently anticipated labouring in Ava or Amarapura before this time, but repeated attacks of fever on a constitution already debilitated, render it extremely doubtful, at times, whether I shall ever again preach the gospel in Ava. During the months of January and February, my health was so much improved, that I felt cheered with the hope of regaining my strength, but, since the warm season began, I find myself shrinking again. Mrs. Kincaid has had three attacks of fever, with enlargement of the *spleen*, within three months past. I feel thankful that my lungs are not affected, and that I can speak with the greatest ease. I preach in the native chapel twice

on the Sabbath, and four evenings during the week, besides labouring in different parts of the city, as my strength will allow. Not long since, I baptized two Burmans, and examined two others, but they were not received.

[Letter from Maulmain, 9 April 1839]

By

Eugenio Kincaid

American Baptist Missionary Magazine 20.1. (January 1840)

We have received further intelligence from Amarapura, which is now the residence of the court of Ava. Capt. MacLeod, left in charge when Col. Benson quitted the capital, has had a private interview with the king, but it appears to have been an informal visit, the same as he would have received from me or any other old acquaintance. Nothing was said relative to the position of the two governments. The king was affable, as he always is, but carefully avoided any remark or hint that could be construed into a recognition of Capt. McLeod's political character. Thus the subject of war or peace is attended with as much uncertainty as ever.

We have obtained no further information from the church in Ava, or from those in the vicinity of Rangoon. It is "the reign of terror." Executions are almost of daily occurrence, attended with the circumstances of the most barbarous and revolting character. In some instances, they are too brutal and disgusting to be mentioned. In addition to this, Ava and the neighboring cities have just been visited by an earthquake more calamitous and awful than was ever before known in the empire. I will extract a few passages from a letter received this evenings, which contains some particulars in relation to it. [See "Amarapura, 23rd March 1820" under separate heading below]

Another letter says, "the destruction and desolation are most appalling. The three cities are heaps of ruins, wherever there were brick buildings and pagodas. The waters of the river rose up, and flowed back. The great shock did not last above five minutes."

Thus the judgements of Heaven are falling thick upon, poor, distracted Burmah. The king knows more of God, and his law, than any other monarch that ever sat on the throne of Ava, and yet he shuts light, and truth, and compassion, out of his heart.

"Amarapura, 23rd March 1839"

American Baptist Missionary Magazine 20.1 (January 1840)

A most appalling event occurred between the hours of 3 and 4 this morning. We were all fast asleep, when a rumbling noise, resembling thunder, awoke us, and about ten minutes after, our houses shook with such violence that we were unable to stand, and were obliged to support ourselves by laying hold of one of the posts. The ground near the residency is rent in different places, and large quantities of black sand have been thrown upon its surface. In the plains, immense chasms have been formed, from three to

four yards in breadth, and extending north and south to the distance of a mile and upwards. None of the individuals attached to the residency were hurt, but I am sorry to acquaint you that the whole of the brick houses and pagodas in the cities of Amarapura, Ava, and Sagaing, have become a heap of ruins, burying in their fall the unfortunate people who were asleep at the awful moment! The loss of lives is supposed to be great. At this city alone, upwards of one hundred have been already reported. Forty Burmans have been buried among the ruins of the buildings about the palace, and upwards of twenty Mussulmans in the different mosques. Ava is supposed to have suffered most. In a day or two we expect accounts of the loss sustained in that city and Sagaing.

[Letter from Maulmain, 3 July 1839]

By

Eugenio Kincaid

American Baptist Missionary Magazine 20.3 (March 1840)

I am still preaching to the native church in this place, twice on the Sabbath and four times during the week. Br. Stevens preachers Tuesday and Friday evenings. I have recently baptized five converts, and there are five or six others who are expected soon to receive this ordinance. Not long since the head native officer invited me to preach at his house, which was well filled with earnest literature. The truth is evidently gaining ground here; the violence of opposition has diminished, and the number of inquirers is greater than was ever known here before. Br. Stevens has commenced his school, and has the superintendence of all the assistants at this station.

About six weeks since, information was received from Ava, that the king had ordered 70 or 80,000 men to march for Rangoon, Bassein, and Toungh-OO, under the command of three of his sons. Now the order is countermanded. I have just received letters from Moungh Na Gau and Moungh Oo Doung, of the church at Ava. They give intelligence of the death of Moungh Moungh, one of the brethren of the church, and state that they have been threatened by the authorities, but hitherto they have been providentially preserved. I long to be there. My whole heart is there. If I had consulted my own judgement exclusively, I should have been there some months ago. Perhaps, however, it would not have been a wise course. My health is altogether better than it was a year since, and I hope I shall yet recover my original vigor. Mrs. Kincaid is far from being well. Br. Judson is still unable to preach. Br. and sister Simons have just buried two of their children, and another is dangerously ill. On the 21st of June, we heard from sister Brayton. She was then given up by two physicians, and was expected to live but a short time. Br. Wade has recently been suffering from his old complaint, which we much fear will ultimately cut him down or drive him from the country. We have intelligence that br. and sr. Howard reached Pinang in safety, and that they were anticipating much benefit from the voyage.

[Letter From Maulmain, 20 January 1840]

By

Eugenio Kincaid

American Baptist Missionary Magazine 20.11 (November, 1840)

My letter from Rangoon will have given you some idea of the fair prospects that appeared to be opening before us in Burmah. We are ready to grasp with eagerness the most distant hope of again entering our chosen field; but still, such is the policy of the new government that our expectations were not sanguine. The courteous manner in which foreigners were treated by the governor, raised up a host of enemies against him, and he was degraded from the vice-royalty, and ordered up to Ava. His successor is a brutal and ignorant man, who is capable of any acts however barbarous, and of executing any order however cruel. But a few months since, by order of the king, he buried alive in one building, above thirty persons, men, women, and children. By the appointment of this man, every one was prepared for new acts of oppression, and we did not mistake. First an order was issued to remove all Burmans from the service of foreigners, and next to forbid all Burmans paying money to foreigners, which is equivalent to forbidding all intercourse. The Burmans were afraid to come near me, or have me go near them. I often thought seriously of going direct to Ava, and begin my work, leaving the event to God, in whose hands are the hearts of all men. However, my family could not go up with me in such a state of the country, and to go alone would induce the suspicion that I was a spy, and so render my stay useless, if nothing worse. So far as personal danger is concerned, I should not hesitate to go to Ava or remain in Rangoon, but to remain in Burmah and do nothing is not in accordance with my feelings or views of duty.

B. Abbott and I have spent nearly a month up the Salwen river, mostly among the Karens, but still have had an opportunity of communicating the gospel, and giving tracts, to many Burmans. We found both Burmans and Karens on the Salwen river, in the greatest possible state of alarm; and certainly not without some reason, for repeatedly during the time of evening preaching we were disturbed by the shouts and firing of gangs of robbers from the Burman side of the river. Sometimes a whole village is kept in a state of alarm till midnight by these bands of marauders. Great numbers of buffaloes, paddy and their property have been taken away, and the Karens along the river and for a considerable distance inland dare not sleep in their houses at night, with the exception of Ko Chetthing's village. It is truly afflicting to see the females and children compelled, through fear, to hazard their lives in the jungle, and poorly clad as they are, endanger their health by sleeping in the cold, damp air of night. I wrote down to the government, giving an account of the robberies, and the distressed state of the inhabitants. Mr. Blundell immediately ordered up two gun-boats well armed, for the protection of the frontier. Br. Abbott became ill with fever, and we were obliged to leave.

As all hope of being able to labor in Burma for the present, is given up, I have had many anxious thoughts about the path of duty. At present my mind is nearly balanced between Mergui and some town in Arracan, and yet, if climate is left out of the account, Arracan has all the claim. It is painful being in such suspense, and to an all-wise Providence I desire to commit all my ways.

[Tharrawaddy's Arsenal]

Maulmain Chronicle, September 22, 1841, p. 193

There will be found in our advertising columns, a recent enactment of the Legislative Council, which is important to be known by all persons engaged in trade at Maulmain. The only fault we find with it, is, it has come too late. Tharawaddee has already armed a force of some fifty thousand men with good muskets of British manufacture, and it is not likely that he has forgotten, that they are of no use without a good supply of powder of a similar manufacture.

[Report on the Kayens]

Maulmain Chronicle, September 22, 1841

A gentleman lately come down from up the country, reports that the Kayens of the Yoonzalen are crossing over to our side in great numbers, in consequence of the cruelties and exactions in which they are subject from the Burmese authorities. He also state, that a considerable Shan force had moved down from Zimmay for the purpose of assisting the Kayens in their dispute with the Burmese, but returned in consequence of the Burmese force, which marched from Bileng, having returned to that place without executing the duty with which it was entrusted. We are somewhat puzzled to distinguish these Kayens from each other, and to know what tribe it is that appears to have thrown off the Burmese of Bileng and what tribes have taken refuge in our territories. Our own Kayens are said to be in some alarm at the doings on the Burmese side and at the threats held out against them if they continue subject to the English; but we have not heard of any disposition having been evinced among them to seek the benefits of Burmese rule and to contribute, with far more kicks than halfpence, towards the erection of the stockade, with which labour the silly old man at Martaban is harassing the people.

[Tharrawaddy's March to Rangoon]

Maulmain Chronicle, September 22, 1841

The King of Burmah has, indeed, at last turned his back upon the capital. The general information and prevailing report is, that early in the present month, the Princes and Woongyees of the Empire embarked on board their boats, and that His Majesty would positively commence his descent on the river on the 6th inst. His capital he has left in charge of two of his confidential friends, the Mek-kara Prince and another Woon-gyee. These, we hear, are the only persons of eminence whom he has thought proper to leave behind him—an immense mass of the population accompanies His Majesty; some say 200,000 in all; of whom nearly one half are well armed and prepared for immediate military service. A great number of gun-boats, or war-boats, must of necessity have been put in requisition and fitted out for this expedition, and we understand that a vessel of about 200 tons, built for river navigation, is attached to the squadron. This "naval armament" is to be increased in Rangoon, as orders have arrived there, brought by a

special messenger, to procure to be constructed several more boats and one or two large vessels. His Majesty will arrive at Rangoon, if no accident impedes his progress, about the middle of next month.

But why is he coming? is the constantly recurring question. Is it not remarkable that the object of a movement, accompanied by so much "pomp and circumstance," should be a profound secret? We think that suspicious of the peaceful intentions of His Majesty are not excited among the natives and foreign residents here, without good reason. We have long heard it said, and read it in print, that Tharawaddee is not fool enough, nor mad enough to make an attempt to recover these provinces by attacking our military position at Maulmain. We believe he is sufficiently possessed of both these qualities, with a large mixture of cunning and deceit, and if he thinks circumstances are favourable on his arrival at Rangoon, he will not hesitate to attempt to do us mischief. If his object be only pleasure or religion, as some say it is, it would appear singular that he should surround himself with so strong a military force, as, according to universal report, he is bringing with him. To fulfil such an object, why should he come prepared for a military campaign? Besides, knowing as he must, that to approach our territories with even ten thousand troops, and to erect stockades within sight of our cantonment, cannot but awaken the suspicions of our Government, why has he not, as a friendly power would do in such cases, condescended to acquaint our Government with his intentions, and declare openly that he has no wish or purpose to disturb the peace of the provinces? It may be true that he is not "fool enough" to hazard another conflict with British bayonets; but our Government would be guilty of much greater folly to trust to his peaceful inclinations, knowing that he is coming prepared for war. During the unrecognized Residency of Col. Benson, and afterwards of Capt. McLeod at his capital, he heard of the frequent visits of our men-of-war and steamers at his port of Rangoon, and of an accession of military strength by another Queen's and Native Regiment at Maulmain, and thought us prepared for hostile operations. But, immediately, he sees the Residency withdrawn, he hears of a war with China, his sea-port is no longer visited by a man-of-war or steamer, and an European Regiment is withdrawn from Maulmain. There is no difficulty in deciding, at once, what conclusions such an uninformed and unenlightened mind as Tharawaddee's would draw from such circumstances. To him, it has no doubt appeared, that these things could not happen, unless our Government were hard pushed and had full occupation for its naval and military force elsewhere. It cannot have escaped observation, that it was under the circumstances alluded to, that he commenced raising his army and signified his intention of coming into close vicinity with these provinces. Still, as the saying is, "he may be more afraid of us than we are of him;" but appearances may show, that however undisturbed our apprehensions may be, he holds us, at present, in but little dread.

[Preparations for Tharrawaddy's Arrival at Rangoon]

Maulmain Chronicle, September 29, 1841

The Burmese holidays have commenced and last, we believe, for ten days. We hear that a good show of men and boats will be made this year, and we are glad of it, as it will convince our neighbours that we care little for all the rumours and threats of attack on this place which have now been current for some months. Our people are very happy and comfortable where they are, and have no desire to partake of the "bhon" so much

talked and boasted of by their late rulers. They have had no palaces or stockades to build here and are thankful for it.

On Thursday last the H. C. Steamer Proserpine was despatched up the Salween, having on board Capt. McLeod, and Capt. Halstead of H. M. B. Childers. She also had in tow several gun-boats, manned with lascars and a detachment of the Talaing Corps, who are to be stationed at several villages on this side of the river. The Proserpine, we learn, grounded on a sand-bank a few miles above the town of Martaban. We believe she remained a night on it and floated off again the next morning without sustaining the slightest damage. Her presence up the river will have the effect, we trust, of repressing the petty depredations of our friends over the way, and of giving confidence to our own people on the bank of the river.

After the above was put in type yesterday the Proserpine returned. We learn that she proceeded up the river to Myaing, about sixty miles, and steared clear of all shoals except the one above mentioned, and met with no accident whatever. The current of the river is very rapid, particularly at this season of the year, which, with the heavy drag of gun-boats in tow, was almost too much for the power of the engines: however, the trip has been quite satisfactory. The Steamer returned, we hear, in splendid style, having left Myaing about half past 9 o'clock A.M. yesterday, and anchoring at Maulmain at 4 p.m., stopping an hour and a half on the way.

The H. S. Steamer Ganges returned on Sunday last from Rangoon and reports that great preparations were making for receiving the king, whose approach had been more rapid than had generally been expected. The Ganges left Rangoon on Saturday when it was known that the king was at Sarawan, some seventy or eighty miles above Rangoon, but it was uncertain how long His Majesty intended to remain at that place. Some said, he would be there ten days, whilst others looked for his being at Rangoon before the full of the moon, or about to-day. It was expected that on Sunday, the advanced guard, under the command of the prince of Prome, would arrive at Rangoon. The rear guard is said to be under the command of the prince of Pahkan. The new landing place, erected at Rangoon expressly for the king, is reported to be a very elegant structure, divided off into three pavilions, the centre one red and the two others green. The whole length of the bridge has a richly carved balustrade, and the work altogether does great credit to the governor by whom, and at whose expense, it is said to have been erected in honor of His Majesty. The king's landing at Rangoon will certainly prove a spectacle well worth witnessing. The whole pomp and circumstance of the kingdom will be concentrated in that one spot, and doubtless His Majesty will, on that day, feel proud of being at the same time the Monarch of so great a host and the object of its admiration and homage.

[Suggestions for a Show of Force Against Tharrawaddy, 2 October 1841]

by

“Prevantative”

Letter to the Editor

Maulmain Chronicle, October 13 1841

Mr. Editor,

But that we know His Majesty is acquainted with our power, the accounts we now receive from Rangoon regarding the numerous, well-armed men daily pouring into Rangoon,—regarding the *well mounted* field pieces, 19 pieces (from one to nine pounders) being landed from one raft,—regarding several vessels from 30 to 70 tons which have already arrived at Rangoon from the up-country, and from upwards of twenty large Chuliah Brigs, previously enticed to Rangoon under the pretence of being let off Port-charges when His Majesty arrived at Rangoon, and for which vessels cargoes of timber cannot now be had, we might reasonably infer that His Majesty entertained the intention to conquer Ceylon after settling affairs with Maulmain and our southern provinces. At all events, His Majesty seems to be offended at Lord Auckland's pugnacious temperament in not yielding up to His Majesty the Lord Paramountship over India, without putting His Majesty to all this unnecessary trouble to take it.

We hear that all parties at Rangoon labour to impress on the minds of their hearers, that His Majesty's views and intentions are most religiously pacific, while others, better accustomed to link together facts with chains of circumstances, boldly assert that if His Majesty's intention be or was pacific, then is the crouching tiger a lamb, and the unrequited venomous snake a harmless worm. Timidity on our part will mature temerity on the part of Tharawaddee.

I conceive that the best plan to prevent our old enemy at Bileng from setting incendiaries to destroy our town, we should, Firstly, station a steamer with a few gunboats on the Irrawaddie, off the mouth of the Line creek, down which His Majesty is proceeding. This little trifling armament would effectually separate His Majesty from the upper provinces by water communication. Secondly, instead of our steamer and gunboats being up the Salween, they should be on the Satang river, having a few guns on the Wind-mountain at Keedown. Thirdly, we should have two or more small class men-of-war and a steamer off Rangoon. Meanwhile where is your paper which was published in Burmese? It ought, I conceive, to be revived. The first article should be the Yandabo Treaty, therein shewing to His Majesty's subjects, that His Majesty has no more right to the Tenasserim and Arracan Provinces than the Pegue chief, now in Siam, has to the kingdom of Pegue; also giving an account of the ransom of Canton. It seems the Court of Ava effects to believe that we lost 8,000 men at Canton. If a token of suspicion that a white feather may be expected when His Majesty comes a little nearer to the scratch can be exhibited, I submit this affected knowledge of a notorious untruth is that token. Finally, you should inform the head of Government, that on Burmese affairs he would act wisely to appoint two Commissioners, one of who should be either Mr. Blundell or Col. Burney, as Senior Commissioner.

Your obedient servant,

PREVENTATIVE

2nd October

Note:--We presume the noble Earl at the head of the Indian Government, will sufficiently appreciate the measures of precaution recommended by our correspondent "Preventative," such measures have the merit, at least, of being singularly novel, as we believe it has not occurred, in the present century, that a British military forces have taken possession of the rivers and territories of a power with whom their Government was on terms of peace!—Ed.